

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

SAUDI ARABIA

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In 1999, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was the world's largest producer of crude oil, accounted for about 11.9% of the total world output, this was a slight decrease from the 12.5% of the world's crude oil produced in 1998 (U.S. Energy Information Administration, [undated], Table 4.1a—World crude oil production (including lease condensate)—1970-1999, accessed December 26, 2000, at URL <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/ipsr/t41a.txt>). Petroleum accounted for about 85% of export earnings and about 70% of Government revenues (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, p. 358). Saudi Arabia has the world's largest known concentration of petroleum, which represented more than 26% of total proven world reserves. Proven oil reserves were 263.5 billion barrels (Gbbbl); this included 2.5 Gbbbl contained in the Saudi Arabian share of reserves in the Partitioned Zone. The bulk of the Kingdom's reserves were contained in a few massive fields in the northeast (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, p. 357; U.S. Energy Information Administration, November 2000, Saudi Arabia, accessed February 1, 2001, at URL <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cabs/saudi2.html>).

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Saudi Arabia, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

Reference Cited

Arab Petroleum Research Center, 2000, Saudi Arabia, *in* Arab oil & gas directory—2000: Arab Petroleum Research Center, Paris, p. 357-412.

Major Sources of Information

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TABLE 1
SAUDI ARABIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 3/ METALS	1995	1996	1997	1998 e/	1999 e/
Ore, mine output:					
Gross weight 4/	1,400,000 e/	1,569,205	1,600,000 e/	1,700,000	1,680,000
Copper content of concentrate and bullion 5/	925 e/	834 e/	703	782 r/ 6/	821 6/
Gold content of concentrate and bullion 4/ 5/ kilograms	8,080	7,530	7,260	5,100 r/ 6/	4,570 6/
Lead content of concentrate e/ 5/	50	50	50	60	50
Silver content of concentrate and bullion 4/ 5/ kilograms	16,900 e/	16,608	17,200	13,840 r/ 6/	10,470 6/
Zinc content of concentrate e/ 5/	500	500	619	3,550 r/ 6/	3,161 6/
Iron and steel:					
Direct-reduced iron thousand tons	2,129	2,296 r/ 6/	2,110	2,268 r/ 6/	2,343
Steel, crude do.	2,451	2,683	2,539	2,356 r/ 6/	2,610
Ferroalloys	--	20,000 e/	83,000 e/	83,000	83,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Barite	6,000	8,000 e/	8,000 e/	8,000	7,000
Cement, hydraulic thousand tons	15,773	16,437	15,400 6/	14,000	14,000
Gypsum, crude	370,000	362,589	365,000 e/	330,000	330,000
Lime e/	175,000	180,000	180,000	200,000	200,000
Nitrogen:					
N content of ammonia thousand tons	1,327	1,386	1,405	1,418 r/ 6/	1,402 6/
N content of urea do.	980	1,010	930	1,024 r/ 6/	1,002 6/
Pozzolan	NA	144,000 e/	145,000 e/	145,000	140,000
Salt	90,000	140,000 r/ e/	140,000 r/	140,000	140,000
Sodium hydroxide	NA	450,000	450,000 e/	400,000	400,000
Sulfur; byproduct, hydrocarbons e/ thousand tons	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,300	2,400
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Gas, natural: 7/					
Gross million cubic meters	73,900	77,700	81,900	83,000	89,000
Dry do.	38,030	41,340	45,300	46,700 r/	49,000
Natural gas liquids: e/					
Propane thousand 42-gallon barrels	148,000 r/	147,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Butane do.	60,000	60,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Natural gasoline and other do.	48,000	47,400	48,900	48,900	49,000
Total do.	256,000 r/	254,000 r/	263,900 6/	264,000 r/	264,000
Petroleum:					
Crude do.	3,004,300	2,999,550	3,080,235	3,040,000	2,860,000
Refinery products:					
Liquefied petroleum gases do.	11,315	12,000 e/	15,300 r/ 6/	15,000 r/	15,000
Gasoline do.	85,000	94,462	96,400 r/ 6/	97,000 r/	97,000
Jet fuel do.	21,900	23,000	32,500 r/ 6/	33,000 r/	33,000
Kerosene do.	36,865	40,875	28,500 r/ 6/	30,000 r/	30,000
Distillate fuel oil do.	172,280	191,990	183,000 r/ 6/	185,000 r/	185,000
Residual fuel oil do.	167,200	180,565	173,000 r/ 6/	175,000 r/	175,000
Unspecified do.	73,400	68,000	75,000 r/ 6/	75,000 r/	75,000
Total do.	567,960	610,892	603,700 r/	610,000 r/	610,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Table includes data available through December 30, 2000.

2/ Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ In addition to commodities listed, the following were probably produced: aggregates, clays, granite, limestone, marble, and silica sand; available information is inadequate to estimate output.

4/ Production from Mahd Adh Dhahab and Sukhaybirat gold operations.

5/ Mahd Adh Dhahab produces a bulk flotation concentrate that contains copper, gold, lead, silver, and zinc and a crude bullion that contains copper, gold, and silver.

6/ Reported figure.

7/ Includes Saudi Arabian 0.5 share of production in the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti Partitioned Zone.